A.—The Government have no information but will call for it, if names of the channels for which information is required be specified.

The Ponneri channel.

259 *Q.*—Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present stage in the powers of shifting of the head of the Ponneri channel three miles up the Coleroon river;

(*b*) the cost of the latest revised estimate;

(*c*) the amount expended up to date;

(*d*) the probable extent of additional lands that would be brought under cultivation by this work; and

(*e*) the estimated additional revenue therefrom?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The latest revised estimate sanctioned for improvements to the Ponneri channel amounts to Rs. 2,22,000 and fair progress has been made on the work. Information regarding actual expenditure incurred on the work up to date is not available but the expenditure to end of November 1923 amounts to Rs. 1,63,772.

(*d*) & (*e*) The work is intended chiefly to ensure a proper supply for the channel all the year round, and no large extension of cultivation has been contemplated.

Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"With regard to the answer to question No. 259 (*a*) and (*b*), are we to understand, Sir, that the work thus far has been a failure?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Hardly."

The Kannambadi Arbitration affair.

260 *Q.*—Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how the present position of the Kannambadi Arbitration affair stands;

(*b*) who were the officers deputed to consider the question of compromise of the dispute between the Madras and the Mysore Governments regarding the Dam;

(*c*) at what places they met;

(*d*) what were the decisions arrived at or the proposals advanced by them at each place of meetings;

(*e*) whether the Government have considered the necessity of obtaining the opinion of the leading ryots of the districts affected by the construction of the above Dam before any compromise is arrived at;

(*f*) if the answer to clause (*e*) is in the affirmative, whether the Government will be pleased to call for a conference of the leading ryots of the districts concerned to consider the question of compromise and also to give publicity to the terms of compromise in all the leading newspapers of Madras and the districts concerned;

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(*g*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the series of articles about the Dam, which appeared in the issues of the now defunct " Desabaktan ", Madras, dated 29th and 30th October 1919, and 1st, 5th and 10th November 1919, and also the issues of the " Panchayat," a monthly published at Trichinopoly, in its Vol. 1, Nos. 11 and 12, and Vol. 2, Nos. 4 and 5 ; and

(*h*) whether the Government have taken into consideration the objections raised in those articles ?

A.—(*a*) In pursuance of the suggestion made by the Secretary of State, negotiations were started in April 1920 and have been proceeding and in the later stages the Consulting Engineer of the Government of India has been helping the Government of Madras and the Mysore Darbar. They have not yet been finally concluded.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) As the negotiations have been proceeding on the basis that they should be treated as confidential and the proceedings should not prejudice either party if the matter is ultimately taken to arbitration, the Government consider that it would be detrimental to public interests to answer these questions.

(*e*) & (*f*) Leading ryots were consulted in August 1922 and will again be consulted if and when necessary.

(*g*) & (*h*) The attention of the Government has now been drawn to the articles referred to.

Report of the " Cauvery Delta Improving Committee."

261 *Q.*—Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to publish the report drawn by the " Cauvery Delta Improving Committee " ?

A.—Further minutes expected by the President of the Committee from some of the members are still awaited and the question of publishing the report will be considered when they are received and the report is examined.

Embankments on certain rivers in South Kanara.

262 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that recently there were erected on the Gurpur and Mulki rivers in South Kanara bunds or embankments for facilitating irrigation of hundreds of acres of fields by villagers with their own labour and at their own cost ;

(*b*) whether these works were ordered to be destroyed on the ground that they obstructed navigation and offended against section 431 of the Indian Penal Code ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the rivers in question were at the time of the erection of the bunds navigable for laden boats only at high tides ; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that in the case of the bund erected without the Collector's permission on the Mulki river by the villagers of Palimar, rice crops of over 500 acres were saved from being destroyed by drought on account of that bund, while only a few boats were prevented from carrying their goods which could be easily transhipped over the bund ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The Government have no information.